Remarks

Claims 1-33 were previously pending and claims 1-18 and 20-33 stand rejected while claim 19 has been objected to. Claims 1, 10, 12, 16, 22, 23, 25-27, 29-31, and 33 have been amended, and claim 34 has been added. Applicants assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on September 1, 2004. During the interview, deficiencies in the Fang reference relative to subject matter of the present invention were discussed. Namely, it was discussed how Fang fails to teach a server that manages communications with a terminal and data systems by communicating via an application interface to the terminal to exchange data with the terminal that is relevant to external data systems and by communicating via separate application interfaces of instruction objects dedicated for the data systems to exchange data with the data systems.

102 Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 14, 16, 20, 22, 23, 25-27, 29-31 and 33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Fang (US Pat 6,243,816). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1-15

The Office Action has rejected claim 1 by stating that Fang teaches all of the elements. It is stated that Fang has a server that includes data system instruction objects for managing communications between the terminal and the respective data systems, and the Office Action points to the abstract, Figure 6, and "pertinent portions of the disclosure."

Amended claim 1 recites, among other things, that each data system instructions object manages communications between the terminal and the respective data system of the plurality of data systems by the data system instructions object of the plurality that corresponds to a particular data system communicating through an applications interface

with the terminal to exchange data relevant to the particular data system and by the data systems instruction object communicating with the corresponding data system through a separate applications interface from the communications with the terminal in order to exchange data between the data systems instruction object and the data system.

Thus, the server utilizes data systems instruction objects to communicate with the terminal at the application level and then also communicates with the data systems at the application level to thereby exchange data relevant to the data systems with both the terminal and the data systems. The server does not merely act as a data packet router at the network level since the data system instructions objects communicate with respective data systems and the terminal through application interfaces and therefore, at the application level. Support for these recitations is provided in the specification with reference to figures 1, 2, and 3. In the example of the specification and these figures, the data instruction objects (such as Java Beans of figure 3) communicate via an applet of the terminal as shown in figure 2 while the data instruction objects (such as the Java Beans) communicate via with the various data systems through external system APIs as shown in figure 3.

Fang fails to teach such management of communications with the terminal and the data systems by a server. Fang provides no interfacing of the server to the terminal and interfacing of the server to the data systems to allow the terminal to exchange data relevant to the data systems with the server at the application level and to allow the server to exchange data with the data systems at the application level. Fang appears to only discuss the client computer gaining data from the server that allows the client computer to perform one sign-on that results in the client computer also being signed onto other system resources that otherwise require separate sign-ons. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over Fang for at least these reasons.

While Fang does not disclose the management of communication at the application level by the server to exchange data with the server that is relevant to the data systems and also exchange data with the data systems themselves, even the log on with the data systems is not done by the server in Fang. Fang points out at col. 5, line 33, that the log on coordinator (LC) that performs the log on of the client computer to the various network resources is instantiated on the client computer so that the client computer is

doing the sign-on with each resource directly, as opposed to the client computer signing onto the server and having the server perform the sign-on for each of the resources. Thus, the sign-on activity of Fang is also not management of communications of the terminal and data systems by the server. Accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Fang.

Dependent claims 2-15 depend from an allowable claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 16-21

The Office Action has also rejected claim 16 by stating that Fang discloses all of the elements. It is stated that Fang discloses sending the data system access rights information to a terminal based on the determined set of data systems to which the user has access. The Office Action points to Figure 6 and "pertinent portions of the disclosure" for support.

Amended claim 16 recites, among other things, a server coupled to the plurality of data systems, the server including a plurality of data system application interface instructions, wherein each data system application interface instructions of the plurality of data system application interface instructions corresponds to a respective data system application of the plurality of data system applications and wherein the data system application interface instructions provide a first set of application interfaces to each of the respective data system applications enabling data to be exchanged between the server and the respective data systems, the server including a data systems user access database that stores user access rights to each data system of the plurality of data systems. Claim 16 further recites a terminal coupled to a second application interface of the server that is separate from the first set of application interfaces and that enables data relevant to one or more data systems to be exchanged between the terminal and the server separately from data being exchanged between the server and the data systems.

Thus, in claim 16, the server utilizes data system application interface instructions to communicate with the terminal at the application level and then also communicates with the data systems at the application level to thereby exchange data with both the terminal and the data systems. These recitations are supported in the specification and

figures as noted above for claim 1. Furthermore, these recitations are not disclosed by Fang as also noted above for claim 1. Accordingly, claim 16 is allowable over Fang for at least these reasons.

Dependent claims 17-21 are allowable for at least these reasons. Furthermore, as noted by the Examiner, the subject matter of claim 19 has already been deemed allowable. See the discussion of new claim 34 below.

Claims 22-33

The Office Action rejected claims 22, 26, and 30 on the same basis as claims 1 and 16. Amended claims 22, 26, and 30 include similar recitations of communicating through an application interface of each of a plurality of instruction objects of the server to each of the plurality of data systems corresponding to each of the instruction objects to exchange data between the server and the plurality of data systems and communicating through the application interface of the server to the terminal to exchange data related to only the data systems for which the user has access rights between the terminal and the server.

Thus, in these claims, the server is also communicating with the terminal and the data systems at the application level through application interfaces to exchange data, and additionally, the server is specifically exchanging data that is related to only the data systems that the user has access rights.

As Fang does not disclose the user communicating with the terminal and data systems at the application level, claims 22, 26, and 30 are allowable over Fang. However, it also follows that Fang does not disclose that the data being exchanged between the server and terminal is related to only the data systems for which the user has access rights. Accordingly, claims 22, 26, and 30 are also allowable for this additional reason.

Dependent claims 23-25, 27-29, and 31-33 depend from an allowable base claim and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

New claim 34

New claim 34 includes the subject matter of claim 19, including the subject matter of all of the base claims prior to their being amended herein. Accordingly, claim 34 is allowable on the basis of claim 19 containing allowable subject matter.

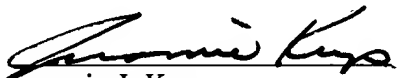
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1- 34 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees beyond the fees for the new claim 34 and the one month extension of time are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 4, 2004



Jeramie J. Keys
Reg. No. 42,724

Withers & Keys, LLC
P.O. Box 71355
Marietta, Ga 30007-1355
(404) 849.2093